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Massachusetts Forest Resources

A Working Guide to Action


GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

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Executive Summary

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Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Management
Division of Forests & Parks

Value of Forest Resources

Massachusetts' forests are a living, growing, renewable resource and if managed properly, will support an expanded forest industry, and increased wildlife, water and recreational opportunities far into the future. Economic, social, and environmental benefits from current Massachusetts forest resources include:

Wood Products

- Approximately 240 million board feet of timber are processed annually with a stumpage value of \$12 million.
- The value added by manufacturing in the Massachusetts forest products industry exceeds \$1.1 billion annually.
- 38,000 people work for over 1,000 forest product firms, with an annual payroll of \$697 million.
- About 1 million cords of fuelwood are burned annually by individual households, displacing a volume equal to 150 million gallons of home heating oil.





Recreation

Tourism is one of the state's fastest growing industries, adding over \$5 billion annually to the state's economy. Visitors' expenditures in 1983 for camping alone were estimated at \$25.2 million plus \$249.9 million for day trips, sightseeing and entertainment.

Nine million people visited the state forests, parks and beaches in FY 86 and revenues generated for day use and overnight camping were over \$3.4 million.

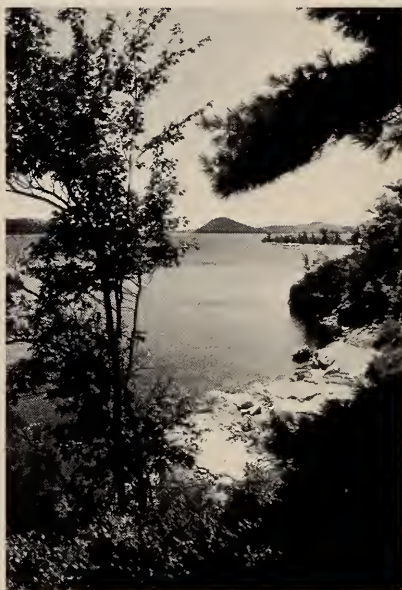
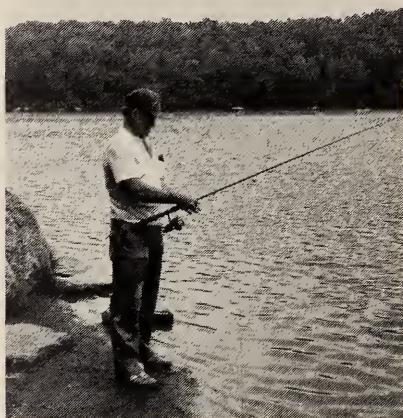
Wildlife

- Sales of fishing and hunting licenses in Massachusetts added \$3.2 million to the state's income in 1982.
- In 1980 expenditures by hunters and fishermen in Massachusetts exceeded \$129 million for equipment, bait, lodging, food, transportation, guides and privilege fees.
- Expenditures for wildlife observation, photography, feeding and related activities were \$22 million in Massachusetts in 1975 and participants in these activities grew 26% between 1975 and 1980. Most likely, these figures are even higher today.



Water

- In 1984, income from forest management on municipal water supply lands exceeded \$1.1 million in nineteen Massachusetts communities.
- The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) reservoir system serves over 2.4 million people primarily in eastern Massachusetts. MDC's current watershed management program annually yields an additional one billion gallons of water valued at \$235,000. This additional water yield is sufficient to meet the needs of over 39,000 people annually, assuming an average daily consumption of seventy gallons per person.



Visual Amenities

- In a growth study, 330 communities associated their "quality of life" with natural areas, panoramic vistas, rural atmosphere, traditional town centers and historic buildings.
- The state's forested land forms part of the essential backdrop for much of our tourism and recreation industry.

Needs and Actions

The Plan documents the present health and ability of Massachusetts' woodlands and forest institutions to provide a continuous flow of forest goods and services needed by the citizens of Massachusetts. Problems and opportunities have been addressed concerning the planning and management of public and private forest lands, forest industries, forest protection from fire, insects and air pollution and preservation of unique forested environments. The report recommends 65 areas of new or intensified activity that, if pursued over the next five years, will greatly improve the forest situation. Most recommendations focus on four critical need areas which are outlined below with a sampling of key actions.

Critical Need:

Expansion of information and education on forest management within both the public and private sectors.

Key Actions:

- Staff and support an expanded state extension forestry program
- Develop and distribute a single information reference on multiple use forest management for private landowners and municipal officials
- Identify target markets for forest management services and develop promotional campaigns to reach each identified market segment
- Inform municipal officials about the value of forest resources and stimulate the positive management of municipally owned forest land

Critical Need:

Expansion of long term forest resources planning on both public and private lands.

Key Actions:

- Propose a State Forest Resources Planning Act that will ensure the implementation of long range, comprehensive forest resources management
- Establish an Office of Forest Resources Planning and Program Analysis within the Department of Environmental Management's Division of Forests and Parks
- Prepare sub-state regional resource inventories and analyses of major providers of forest resources to facilitate the preparation of management plans by all public and private land management agencies and organizations
- Improve the forest resources data base and data management system

Critical Need:

Recognition of the importance of forest industries in the state and the impact these industries have on land management.

Key Actions:

- Continue giving high priority to the implementation and monitoring of Chapter 132, the Forest Cutting Practices Act
- Develop and conduct workshops for timber harvesters on business methods and forestry practices
- Expand domestic and foreign markets for Massachusetts' wood products
- Develop a long range plan to promote development within Massachusetts' forest industries

Critical Need:

Improvement of inter-agency coordination of forest resources at all governmental levels.

Key Actions:

- Establish a permanent Forest Planning Advisory Committee under the auspices of the State Forestry Committee
- Create an inter-agency working group among the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs land management agencies, to assess coordinated forest planning and management opportunities
- Annually evaluate the effectiveness of municipal forest pest and shade tree control programs and inform communities of the results
- Support the regional air pollution/acid deposition monitoring and communication system adopted by the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in June, 1985



Who should be involved?

All citizens of the Commonwealth, whether urban or rural, landowners or non-landowners; for each is affected by the wood products, recreation, wildlife, water, and aesthetics the forests provide.

The plan is a starting point. Progress in resolving problems must be monitored closely and the results incorporated into future updates of this plan. To accomplish this will require the continuing involvement of DEM's Forest Resources Advisory Committee, the entire forestry community, and all interested individuals. If all work together, the people of Massachusetts can fully enjoy the social, economic, and environmental benefits of the Commonwealth's forest resources.

To receive a copy of *Massachusetts Forest Resources—A Working Guide to Action*, contact:

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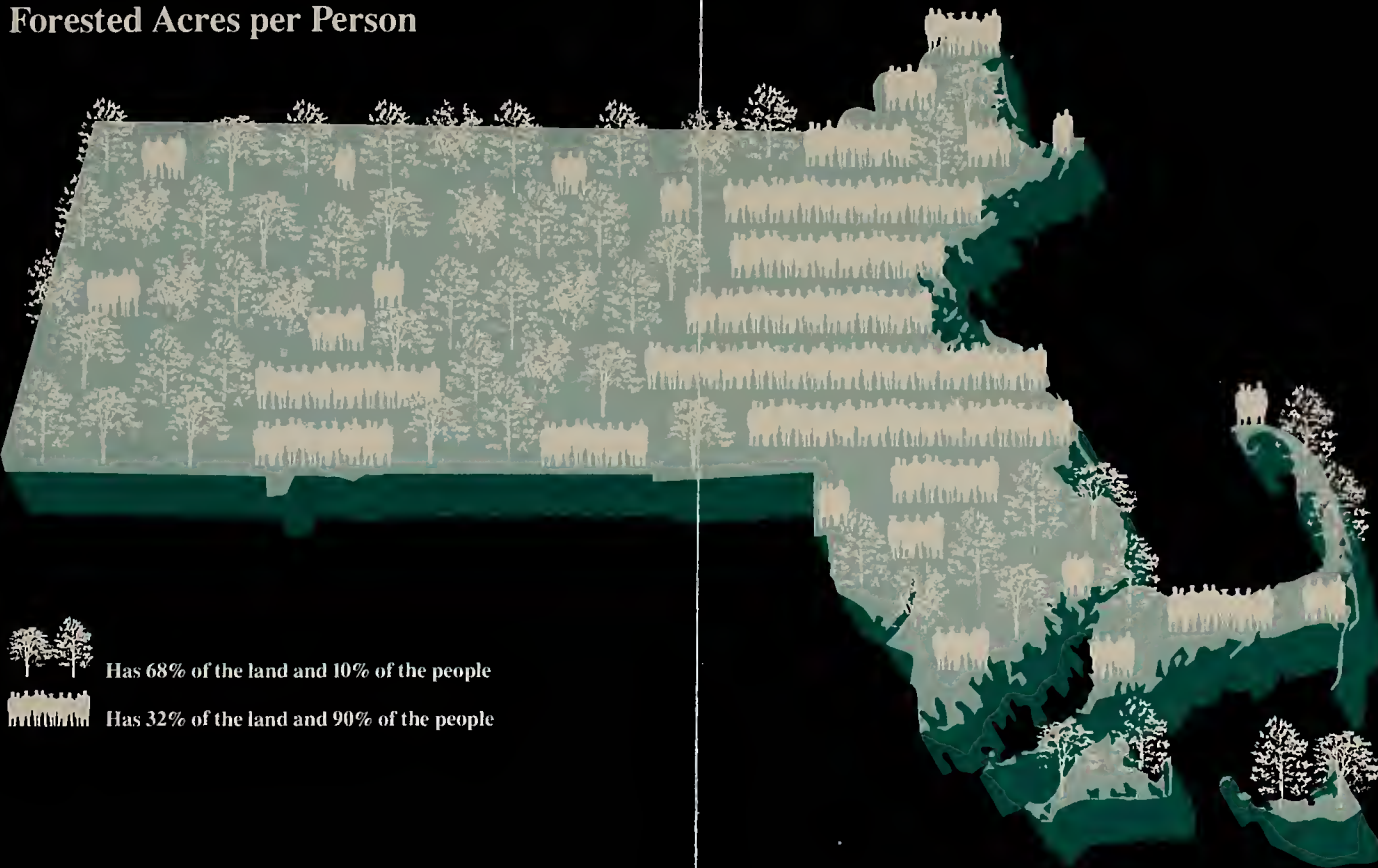
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Massachusetts Forests and Parks

Forest Land Highlights

Forested Acres per Person



Introduction

Massachusetts Forest Resources—A Working Guide to Action is a statewide plan that will work to increase the social, economic and environmental benefits of using the Commonwealth's forest resources—wood products, recreation, water, wildlife and visual amenities.

Since colonial times, Massachusetts' forests have been a major resource of the Commonwealth. Almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total land area is forested—an astounding figure given that Massachusetts is the third most densely populated state in the nation. More than ever before people expect the forest to supply clean water, aesthetic enjoyment, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitats while helping support a \$1.1 billion dollar forest industry. Meeting

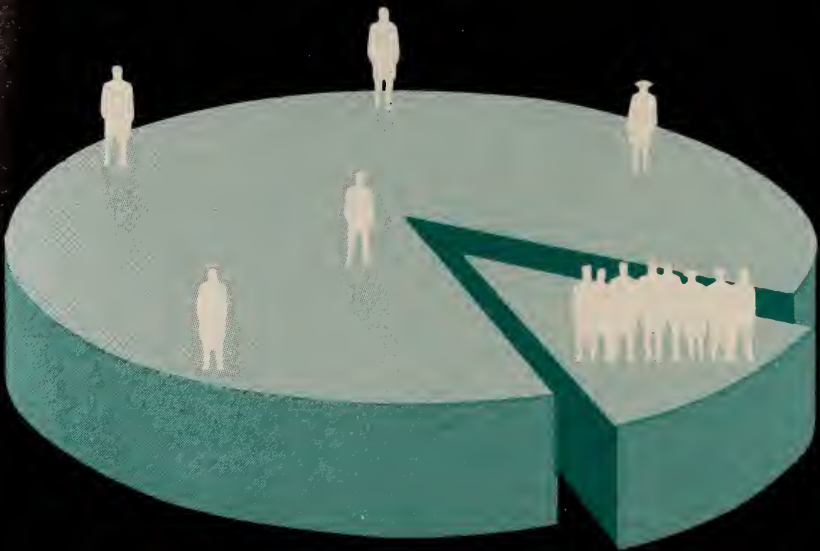
these diverse demands creates both difficult challenges and exciting opportunities.

Effective planning and management is the key to sustaining and increasing long term benefits from the Commonwealth's forest resources. This plan to guide forest policies and programs into the 1990's was prepared by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Division of Forests and Parks with the help of a special Advisory Committee whose members were drawn from a wide spectrum of forest interests. As a result, the plan is statewide in scope, addresses all the uses of both public and private forestland and rests on a broad-based consensus about the actions needed to protect and enhance the multiple benefits of Massachusetts' woodlands.

Ownership

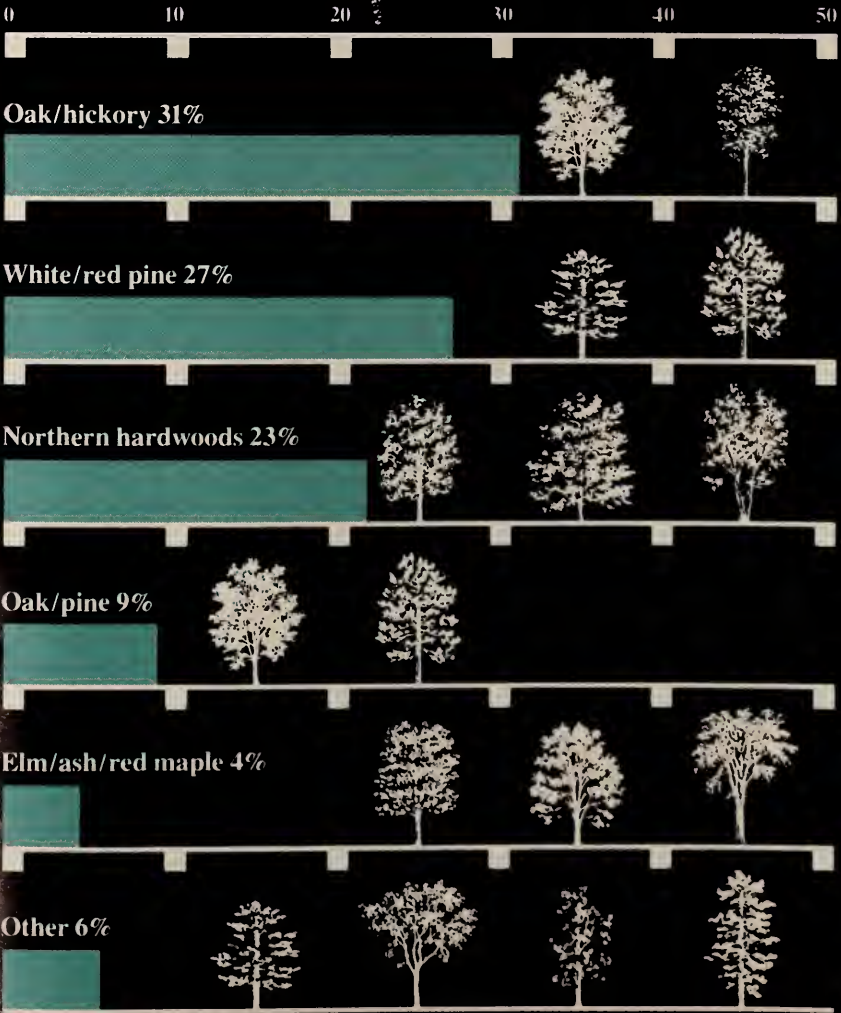
87% Private

13% Public



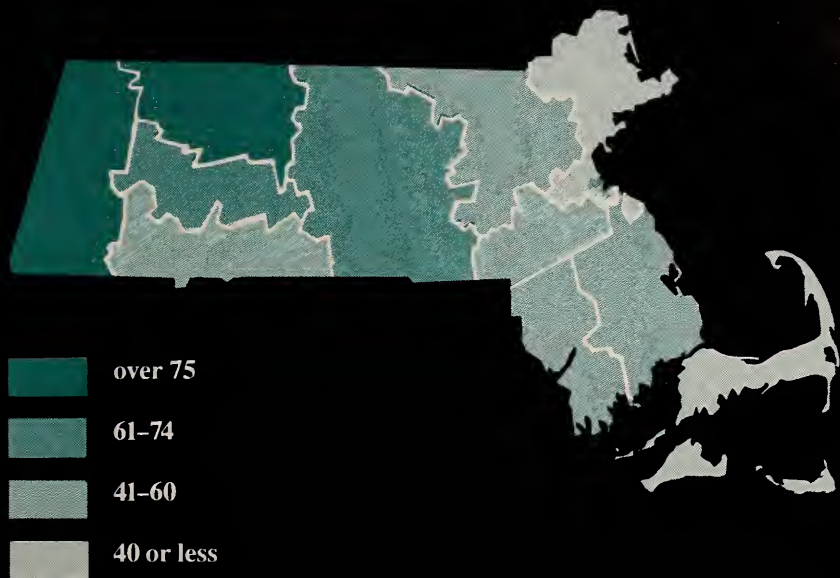
Major Forest Type Groups

Percentages



Commercial Forest Land by County

Percent Forested



The Plan:

- Explains how Massachusetts forest resources contribute to achieving state economic, environmental, and social goals
- Describes the present health and capacity of Massachusetts' woodlands and forest institutions to provide a continuous flow of forest goods and services
- Identifies the major forest resource problems and opportunities and recommends actions to deal with them
- Establishes a five-year action plan for DEM to meet needs expressed in the plan
- Indicates how all people interested in Massachusetts forest resources can implement plan recommendations.

Massachusetts Forests and Parks

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Michael S. Dukakis, Governor

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

James S. Hoyte, Secretary

Department of Environmental Management

James Gutensohn, Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of
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